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The objects of these movements may yet form an interesting study. In *Dionæa*, *Drosera*, and some others, the motion had been found to result in some immediate benefit to the plant; in *Mimosa*, *Hedysarum*, and others, no such immediate benefit had been suggested. In the case of sensitive stigmas it had been supposed to have some reference to arrangements for cross-fertilization. But this was doubtful for the following reasons: In the case of *Mimulus ringens* the stigmas expanded, and the anthers dispersed their pollen before the corolla was quite open, and pollen might be generally found on the stigmatic surfaces when the mouth exposed these parts to view. In *Tecoma radicans*, on the other hand, the lobes of the pistil did not expand till some time after the mouth of the corolla was open. In many cases pollen-hunting bees had carried away all the pollen before these lobes expanded. In cases where the expanded lobes and dispersing pollen were simultaneous, it was theoretically supposed that a bee or insect touched the lobes with its pollen-covered head or back, and that the lobes then closed against the admission of pollen on the withdrawal of the insect from the flower. But he had found that the bees in the cases observed by him occupied but from three to five seconds in visiting a flower, while it took from thirty to sixty seconds for the lobes to close, and then they were seldom so completely closed as to render the reception of fresh pollen difficult. He thought from these and other facts that the hypothesis in relation to cross fertilization was untenable, and that the real use of this motion in the economy of nature was an open and yet promising field to the future investigator.

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SEPTEMBER 24.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-seven persons present.

Henry C. Wood, M.D., Francis X. Dercum, M.D., Henry A. Green, and E. Gybbon Spilsbury were elected members.

The following was ordered to be published:—